10. On the food front, the position of Kerala had never been quite comfortable because of its dependence on other States for essential commodities of mass consumption. This has led to the creation of a far flung network for public distribution reinforced by the activities of the Sivil Supplies Corporation and the Consumer Co-operatives. While steps like support price are adopted for protecting the interests of cultivators, emphasis is placed on the delivery of commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene and controlled cloth through the public distribution system. My Government will strive for the continued, uninterrupted and effective functioning of the public distribution system and the stabilisation of prices.

11. In the Agricultural Sector, the over-riding priorities of my Government will be area-based agricultural development, relief to the farmers especially in the supply of inputs and ensuring of adequate prices for the agricultural produce. Where import policy of the Government of India adversely affects the prices received by the farmers, my Government will take earnest and energetic steps to take up this problem with the Government of India. My Government will take earnest and energetic steps to ensure that the case of Kerala farmers is properly presented before the Government of India so that the import policy of the Central Government does not adversely affect the prices received by our farmers.

12 Implementation of necessary schemes to step up agricultural production and to make it more remunerative will be the concern of my Government.

13. The escalation of prices of various agricultural inputs has been a cause of grief for farmers. My Government will take a fresh look at the existing systems of supply of these inputs and streamline them to the extent possible.

14. The Government will take effective steps to see that the intended benefits of the agricultural schemes implemented with external financial aid are realised to the maximum within the stipulated period of time itself.

15. Energetic steps will be pursued by my Government for securing adequate prices for agricultural produce. It is proposed to reorganise the entire marketing structure in the State for this purpose. Regulated markets will be established, taking necessary legislative measures for the purpose.

16. Special attention will be given to make paddy cultivation and allied agricultural operations more cost effective.

17. My Government are aware of the difficulties experienced by the coconut cultivators consequent upon the spread of diseases and declining yield and fall in prices. This will be given priority attention. The existing schemes for coconut development will be implemented with greater vigour with a view to stabilising production. My Government also hope to enlist the full support of the Coconut Development Board for our schemes.

18. Cocoa cultivation which was taken up with great expectations is passing through difficult times, because of marketing problems. These problems can be sloved only by the establishment of processing plants in the

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